In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

dynamically installing a daemon application by a central system coupled to ~~on~~ systems with available disk space to store backup files, said systems including each server and client on a network;

receiving a first metadata by the central system from said installed daemon application ~~applications~~, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

creating a master file by the central system, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

the central system installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation;

receiving a request from said backup application ~~applications~~ to download said master file;

selecting from the master file at least one system available to store backup files; and

performing the backup operation to backup at least one file on the at least one selected system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising receiving a list of files to be backed up and wherein said step of selecting comprises selecting two or more systems from said master file.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

compressing and encrypting ~~said~~ backup data; and

storing a second metadata and a key.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information:

number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the step of:

transmitting said second metadata and said key to a central system.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a list of files to be restored;

determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

connecting to one or more daemon applications on one or more systems storing said files to be restored.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

receiving said files to be restored from said one or more daemon applications;

uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

restoring said files to be restored.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium comprising the programming steps of:

dynamically installing a daemon application by a central system coupled to ~~on~~ systems with available disk space to store backup files, said systems including each server and client on a network;

receiving a first metadata by the central system from said installed daemon application ~~applications~~, wherein said fist metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

creating a master file by the central system, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

the central system installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation;

receiving a request from said backup applications to download said master file;

selecting at least one system from said master file to store backup files; and

performing the backup operation to backup at least one file on the at least one selected system.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprising the programming step of receiving a list of files to be backed up wherein said selecting comprises selecting two or more systems from said master file.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 9 further comprising the programming steps of:

compressing and encrypting ~~said~~ backup data; and

storing a second metadata and a key.

11. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information:

number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

12. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11 further comprising the programming step of:

transmitting said second metadata and said key to a central system.

13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving a list of files to be restored;

determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

connecting to one or more daemon applications on one or more systems storing said files to be restored.

14. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 13 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving said files to be restored from said one or more daemon applications;

uncompressing said decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

restoring said files to be restored.

15. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory unit storage coupled to said processor wherein said memory unit is operable for storing a computer program for backing up and restoring files;

wherein said storage includes a computer program, wherein said computer program comprises instructions embedded in said storage and executable by said processor, said instructions comprising:

instructions for dynamically installing a daemon application by a central system coupled to ~~on~~ systems with available disk space to store backup files, said systems including each server and client on a network;

instructions for receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon application ~~applications~~, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

instructions for creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

instructions for installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation;

instructions for receiving a request from said backup application ~~applications~~ to download said master file; ~~and~~

instructions for selecting from the master file at least one system available to store backup files; and

instructions for performing the backup operation to backup at least one file on the at least one selected system.

16. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a central system;

a first computer system coupled to said central system, said first computer system comprising:

a first processor~~;~~ and a first memory unit coupled to said first processor, wherein said first memory unit is operable for storing a backup application operable for backing up and restoring files;

a second and a third computer system, both coupled to said central system wherein each of said second and third computer system comprises:

a second processor;

a second memory unit coupled to said second processor, wherein said second memory unit is operable for storing a daemon application operable for communicating with a said central system; and

a disk unit, wherein an available capacity of said disk unit is configured to store back-up files; and

said central system coupled to said first, said second and said third computer systems wherein said central system comprises:

a third processor; and

a computer program for installing said daemon application ~~applications~~ on said second and third computer systems and installing said backup application on said first computer system for backup and restoration of files;

wherein said computer program comprises instructions executable by a central system processor and embedded in storage accessible to said central system processor, wherein the instructions comprise:

instructions for dynamically installing said daemon application on said second and said third computer systems;

instructions for receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space on said second and said third computer systems;

instructions for creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of system available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to

store backup files for each system to store backup files;

instructions for installing said backup application on said first computer system to perform a backup operation; ~~and~~

instructions for transferring a copy of said master file to said first computer system responsive to receiving a request from said backup application to download said master file

instructions for selecting from the master file at least one of said second and third computer systems available to store backup files; and

instructions for performing the backup operation to backup at least one file on the at least one selected system.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said backup application comprises instructions, executable by said first processor and stored in storage accessible to said first processor, said instructions comprising instructions for receiving a list of files to be backed up.

18. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said backup application further comprises:

instructions for compressing and encrypting ~~said~~ backup data; and

instructions for storing a second metadata and a key.

19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information:

number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said backup application further comprises:

instructions for transmitting said second metadata and said key to said central system.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said backup application further comprises:

instructions for receiving a list of files to be restored;

instructions for determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

instructions for connecting to at least one of said daemon applications stored on said second and said third computer systems storing said files to be restored.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said backup application further comprises:

instructions for receiving said files to be restored from at least one of said daemon applications;

instructions for uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

instructions for restoring said files to be restored.